An Arkus Innovation Studios publication

People, work and possibilities

The Arkus Signal

Grants and funding opportunities worth pursuing

FUNDING EDITION

TUESDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2026

ISSUE 02

Share the work before sharing the grant.

A $10,000 collaboration must reach at least 35 different Washington businesses. Repeat visits still count as one business.



THE LEAD STORY · TURN TO PAGE 03

Washington’s microbusiness support call asks organizations to do more together than they could do separately. The proposal has to explain the joint work, the businesses it will reach and why this particular group belongs at the table.

DUE THIS FORTNIGHT

First steps that cannot wait.

24 September · 3 p.m. ET · Story 07
Letter of intent deadline

29 September · 11:30 a.m. PT · Story 09
Application deadline

30 September · Story 03
Latest advised SAM registration start

30 September · Story 04
Latest advised SAM registration start

30 September · Story 10
Application deadline

1 October · 2 p.m. (time zone: see note) · Story 08
Application deadline

1 October · 5 p.m. ET · Story 11
Letter of intent deadline

6 October · 5 p.m. (time zone: see note) · Story 12
Application deadline

Required applicant steps within 14 days of 22 September. Registration instructions are included.

FROM THE EDITOR

Chandler J. Lewis | Managing Director
Arkus Innovation Studios

A good idea still needs an address.

An application can be compelling and still land outside the funder’s map. This week, place matters: counties, communities, eligible institutions and the people a project is meant to serve. We put those boundaries beside the invitation, where they can help.

READ THIS DETAIL

A time zone worth checking

WSMA labels an October cutoff PST during daylight-saving time. Confirm the intended Pacific cutoff.

Story 01 · page 03

The boundary is part of the brief

The Woods grant uses named counties and exclusions. The applicant’s location matters.

Story 10 · page 07

START ANYWHERE

Your next step, in date order.

New means first featured here; Updated means changed coverage; Still open means a returning opportunity. Urgency is separate and uses the first required applicant step.

STORY	ON OFFER	FIRST REQUIRED ACTION	PAGE
07 A contact list cannot do this job.	Up to $2 million	24 September 2026 3 p.m. ET Letter of intent deadline	06
09 Make the method cheaper, not just the shopping.	Up to $300k, $600k or $800k	29 September 2026 11:30 a.m. PT Application deadline	07
03 The referral needs somewhere to go.	Up to $2 million; one award	30 September 2026 Latest advised SAM registration start	04
04 Coming home is a process.	Up to $1 million per project	30 September 2026 Latest advised SAM registration start	04
10 Make room for the audience that is missing.	Up to $5,000	30 September 2026 Application deadline	07
08 Give the people who help families time to learn.	$2,000–$20,000 reimbursement	1 October 2026 2 p.m. (time zone: see note) Application deadline	06
11 Let patients help write the question.	Up to $300,000 total costs	1 October 2026 5 p.m. ET Letter of intent deadline	08
12 A rural gathering can begin on a screen.	$3,000–$5,000 reimbursement	6 October 2026 5 p.m. (time zone: see note) Application deadline	08
02 Keep the work going all year.	Up to $750,000 per project	15 October 2026 Latest advised SAM registration start	03
01 Share the work before sharing the grant.	$10,000 per collaboration	16 October 2026 5 p.m. (time zone: see note) Application deadline	03
05 Before the trial, test the plan.	Up to $450,000 direct costs	21 October 2026 5 p.m. (time zone: see note) Application deadline	05
06 The discovery may already be in the data.	Up to $200,000 / $2m / $5m	4 November 2026 5 p.m. (time zone: see note) Full proposal deadline	05

Image note: AI-generated imagery. Diagrams summarize call terms; confirm requirements in the official source.

THE PARTNERSHIP DESK

Put a real team behind the idea.

A funder may ask for partners. The useful question is what each one will contribute. Bring Nadia the public call and the work your organization can own. Arkus can help examine the idea, develop the evidence or take responsibility for a clearly agreed part.

The lead applicant submits the application. A subrecipient receives grant funds to carry out an agreed part of the project, where the call permits it. Confirm each partner’s eligibility, budget and responsibilities before applying.

Bring the opportunity to Nadia ↗

01

STATUS: NEW Washington State businesses

Share the work before sharing the grant.

A $10,000 collaboration must reach at least 35 different Washington businesses. Repeat visits still count as one business.

Thirty-five businesses means thirty-five businesses. An owner who attends three workshops still counts once. WSMA's new collaborative grant makes that distinction explicit, asking business-support organizations to work together and reach people they might not reach alone. Each business must receive at least one hour of substantial support to count.

The program plans 15 awards of exactly $10,000. Projects must engage two to five strategic partners, with an eligible lead managing the money and reporting. Every partner must qualify. The current rules consider several nonprofit and quasi-governmental forms, including chambers and trade associations, rather than limiting the collaboration to charities.

Check the budget before arranging the planning meeting: the request cannot exceed 20% of the lead's qualifying actual budget. Funding supports services, not new software, equipment or cash handed to business owners. Applications close October 16. Optional sessions on September 22 and 23 explain the program and portal; find session details in the online story; required dates are on page 09. A saved draft can be revised. A submitted application cannot.

Application and details ↗ Official source ↗ Talk to Nadia at Arkus ↗

Washington State Microenterprise Association · Official information checked 21 September 2026.

Official source: signal.arkusinnovationstudios.com/r/02/f01

WSMA COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

The money arrives in two parts.

80% After both parties sign Within 20 business days

20% After the report approval

$10,000 total award

35 businesses
Each counted once

Repeat visits to one business still count as one business.

ON OFFER

$10,000 per collaboration

Fifteen full awards planned. 80% is paid within 20 business days after both parties sign; 20% follows approval of the final report. Work, spending and reporting must finish June 16, 2027.

NEXT REQUIRED ACTION

16 October 2026 · 5 p.m. (time zone: see note)

Application deadline

FINAL SUBMISSION

16 October 2026 · 5 p.m. (time zone: see note)

Application deadline

First required step in 24 days (as of 22 September)

WHO CAN APPLY

Lead and partners need qualifying nonprofit or quasi-governmental status, at least two years of relevant business-support experience, and an Evergreen BizLink resource-partner profile or submitted profile. Academic institutions cannot be funded applicants.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Engage 2–5 strategic partners; reach at least 35 different Washington businesses. The $10,000 request cannot exceed 20% of the lead's qualifying actual budget, or its dedicated business-services budget inside a larger organization. Upload the required budget in Excel format, including lead-organization personnel and collaborating partners. The target microbusinesses have five or fewer employees and need less than $50,000 in financing.

READ THIS DETAIL

The issuer uses PST during daylight-saving time; confirm the intended Pacific cutoff. Calendar reminders remain all-day. Instructions ask for the 'last full 2026 calendar year' budget before that year has ended. Confirm the intended period; do not substitute a year silently. The guidelines call June 16, 2027 a Friday; that date is a Wednesday. Confirm the final reporting date. Use the 2026–27 guidelines: the separate website FAQ still describes the previous cycle.

02

STATUS: NEW United States

Keep the work going all year.

A new federal call offers up to $750,000 for sustained youth drug prevention, with schools, families and community partners working together.

A school assembly can start a conversation. Keeping that conversation useful takes people who will still be there next month. This new federal grant supports drug prevention in schools and extracurricular settings, combining education, early intervention, mentoring and routes into treatment.



The work must connect local law enforcement and community coalitions. Applicants can develop support for parents and caregivers, train school staff or improve safe travel to school and activities. The point is a coordinated program for young people, with a clear explanation of who does what and how progress will be measured.

Up to $750,000 is available over three years. There are two submissions: the federal application form by October 29, then the full package in JustGrants by November 5. The proposal uses a questionnaire with short answers. A concise application still needs a complete plan.

Application and details ↗ Official source ↗ Talk to Nadia at Arkus ↗

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, US Department of Justice · Official information checked 21 September 2026.

Official source: signal.arkusinnovationstudios.com/r/02/f02

ON OFFER

Up to $750,000 per project

Approximately 16 grants from a $12 million expected pool, for 36 months beginning January 1, 2027. Award counts and funding are anticipated, not guaranteed.

NEXT REQUIRED ACTION

15 October 2026

Latest advised SAM registration start

FINAL SUBMISSION

5 November 2026 · 8:59 p.m. ET

JustGrants full application

First required step in 23 days (as of 22 September)

WHO CAN APPLY

State, county and city governments; federally recognized Tribal governments; and nonprofits with or without 501(c)(3) status, excluding institutions of higher education. No matching contribution is required.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Coordinate with local law enforcement and community coalitions. Begin SAM registration or renewal by September 29, and no later than October 15, as the notice instructs. Submit SF-424 in Grants.gov before the JustGrants application. One lead applies; other funded partners are subrecipients. Complete the required proposal questionnaire and budget.

03 STATUS: NEW United States CLOSES WITHIN 14 DAYS

The referral needs somewhere to go.

One award of up to $2 million will help substance-use programs solve the practical problems between police, treatment providers and correctional facilities.

A referral is easy to write. Finding an available treatment bed after hours is a different task. This new BJA award asks an experienced organization to help funded substance-use programs deal with those practical gaps, from safe field encounters to continuity of care after release.



The work spans four areas: police operations, coordination inside correctional facilities, lawful information sharing and useful performance data. Training might explain a release-planning procedure or help agencies agree what treatment information they can share. It needs people who understand both the work and its privacy limits.

BJA expects one cooperative agreement of up to $2 million over two years. The applicant can be a nonprofit, university or business, but must show it can support other grantees with specialist advice. The first federal form is due November 2; the full application follows November 9. The ten-page narrative leaves little room for vague promises.

ON OFFER

Up to $2 million; one award

One anticipated cooperative agreement over 24 months starting January 1, 2027. The $2 million is the award ceiling and total expected pool, not a separate amount for each supported grantee.

NEXT REQUIRED ACTION

30 September 2026

Latest advised SAM registration start

FINAL SUBMISSION

9 November 2026 · 8:59 p.m. ET

JustGrants full application

First required step in 8 days (as of 22 September)

Application and details ↗ Official source ↗ Talk to Nadia at Arkus ↗

Bureau of Justice Assistance, US Department of Justice · Official information checked 21 September 2026.

Official source: signal.arkusinnovationstudios.com/r/02/f03

WHO CAN APPLY

Public or private institutions of higher education, nonprofits with or without 501(c)(3) status, and businesses including small businesses. No matching contribution is required.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

The notice advised starting SAM registration by 21 September (passed); its latest stated date is 30 September. Submit SF-424 in Grants.gov, then the full application and a narrative of no more than ten pages in JustGrants. One application per lead; funded partners are subrecipients. Review the notice's program exclusions and award conditions.

04 STATUS: NEW United States CLOSES WITHIN 14 DAYS

Coming home is a process.

Up to $1 million supports mentoring and practical help for adults leaving correctional facilities. A partnership with a correctional agency is required.

The release date is one day. Rebuilding a life takes longer. This federal call funds mentoring and transitional services for adults returning from correctional facilities who are assessed as facing a moderate to high risk of reoffending. Support can begin before release and continue afterward.

The grant is designed for community organizations and Tribal governments with a working relationship to the facilities serving their participants. A signed agreement with the correctional agency is required. Applicants also need a serious plan for tracking outcomes, including a chief executive's assurance that the organization will collect the required data.

ON OFFER

Up to $1 million per project

Approximately 13 grants from an expected pool of up to $12.5 million. Project period: 36 months starting January 1, 2027. The pool and award count are anticipated.

NEXT REQUIRED ACTION

30 September 2026

Latest advised SAM registration start

FINAL SUBMISSION

6 November 2026 · 8:59 p.m. ET

JustGrants full application

First required step in 8 days (as of 22 September)



BJA anticipates 13 awards of up to $1 million, each covering three years. The federal form is due October 30, followed by the full JustGrants application on November 6. Start with the partnership and the service plan. A polished ten-page narrative cannot supply either after the deadline.

Application and details ↗ Official source ↗ Talk to Nadia at Arkus ↗

Bureau of Justice Assistance, US Department of Justice · Official information checked 21 September 2026.

Official source: signal.arkusinnovationstudios.com/r/02/f04

WHO CAN APPLY

Federally recognized Tribal governments and nonprofits with or without 501(c)(3) status, excluding institutions of higher education. No matching contribution is required. More than one application is permitted for genuinely different projects.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

A memorandum of understanding with the correctional agency serving the target facilities is required, along with the chief executive's assurance on participant identifiers and reoffending-outcome reporting. The notice advised starting SAM registration by 21 September (passed); its latest stated date is 30 September. Submit SF-424 first; full application includes a ten-page maximum narrative. Funded partners are subrecipients.

05 STATUS: NEW United States; research with eligible Native populations

Before the trial, test the plan.

NIH’s planning grant asks researchers and Native communities to work out whether a future health study can succeed.

A study can have a sound scientific question and still ask people to take part in a way that makes little sense to them. This NIH grant funds the work of finding that out early. Researchers can develop an intervention, test whether recruitment is practical and adapt methods with Native communities before a larger trial.



Community involvement is part of the research design, with partners helping shape the work and its use. The R34 route supports planning and feasibility, not a trial intended to establish whether a treatment works. Applicants do not need preliminary data. They do need a plan of no more than two pages showing milestones and the decisions those milestones will support.

Up to $450,000 in direct research costs is available across three years, with no year above $225,000. The next deadline is October 21 at 5 p.m. in the applicant organization’s local time. Institutional registrations can take weeks. A promising research question does not shorten the registration queue.

ON OFFER

Up to $450,000 direct costs

Total over up to three years, with no more than $225,000 direct costs in any year. Direct costs exclude institutional overhead. No cost sharing required.

NEXT REQUIRED ACTION

21 October 2026 · 5 p.m. (time zone: see note)

Application deadline

FINAL SUBMISSION

21 October 2026 · 5 p.m. (time zone: see note)

Application deadline

First required step in 29 days (as of 22 September)

Application and details ↗ Official source ↗ Talk to Nadia at Arkus ↗

National Institutes of Health · Official information checked 21 September 2026.

Official source: signal.arkusinnovationstudios.com/r/02/f05

WHO CAN APPLY

Eligible US universities, nonprofits, businesses, governments and Tribal organizations may apply. The research must fit a participating NIH institute and the call’s defined Native populations. Foreign organizations and foreign components are ineligible.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Complete SAM, Grants.gov and eRA Commons registrations. Include a Milestone and Study Target Plan of no more than two pages. Academic/research support letters are due with the application. Tribal/community resolutions and qualifying community letters may arrive up to 30 days before the review meeting; check its posted date and late-material rules.

06 STATUS: NEW United States

The discovery may already be in the data.

NSF will fund work that makes existing scientific datasets more useful. Collecting a new dataset is outside this call.

A dataset can be public and still be almost impossible to use. Missing definitions, uncertain permissions or incompatible formats can stop a researcher long before the interesting question. NSF’s AI Datasets program backs work that removes those obstacles from existing scientific data and opens up research that was previously difficult.

There are three routes: planning proposals up to $200,000, impact projects up to $2 million and flagship projects up to $5 million. Impact and flagship awards can last three years. The larger labels are not decorations. Applicants must explain the scientific benefit, the people who will use the resource and how it will remain accessible and reliable.

ON OFFER

Up to $200,000 / $2m / $5m

Three separate ceilings: planning, impact and flagship. Impact and flagship projects may last up to three years. Voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited.

NEXT REQUIRED ACTION

4 November 2026 · 5 p.m. (time zone: see note)

Full proposal deadline

FINAL SUBMISSION

4 November 2026 · 5 p.m. (time zone: see note)

Full proposal deadline

First required step in 43 days (as of 22 September)

New primary data collection is outside scope. A partnership submits through one lead, with the other organizations included under that proposal. No preliminary proposal or letter of intent is required. Full applications close November 4 at 5 p.m. in the submitting organization’s local time. The persuasive question is what this work will let someone discover.



Application and details ↗ Official source ↗ Talk to Nadia at Arkus ↗

National Science Foundation · Official information checked 21 September 2026.

Official source: signal.arkusinnovationstudios.com/r/02/f06

WHO CAN APPLY

Eligible US higher-education institutions; research or education nonprofits; businesses with strong scientific or engineering research or education capability; state and local governments; federally recognized Tribal Nations; certain federal institutions under NSF rules.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Use an existing dataset and one lead submission. Explain scientific benefit, research plan, data governance and long-term availability. Flagship applicants must justify that scale; discussing the idea with a program officer is strongly encouraged.

07

STATUS: NEW · United States and territories; national work · CLOSES WITHIN 14 DAYS

A contact list cannot do this job.

One national coordinator could receive up to $2 million to help health-professions leaders learn and act together.

A network is easy to draw: circles, connecting lines, perhaps a tasteful legend. Making it work requires someone to notice where the lines stop. RWJF seeks a lead organization that can help people across health-professions education and healthcare institutions coordinate their work on diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.

The task reaches beyond introducing people. It includes building trust, sharing useful learning and helping organizations act together. Applicants need national reach and the ability to manage a large grant involving several partners. A group can apply, but one organization must hold the grant and take responsibility for coordination and reporting.

One award of up to $2 million is expected for twenty-four months. The first deadline is September 24 at 3 p.m. Eastern for a letter of intent, the initial description of the proposed work. Full proposals follow only by invitation. With that date close, the immediate question is who already has the relationships and authority to do the coordinating.



ON OFFER

Up to $2 million

One anticipated grant over 24 months. A partnership has one lead grant holder, not a separate award for each partner.

NEXT REQUIRED ACTION

24 September 2026 · 3 p.m. ET

Letter of intent deadline

FINAL SUBMISSION

22 January 2027 · 3 p.m. ET

Invited full proposal deadline

First required step in 2 days (as of 22 September)

Application and details ↗ · Official source ↗ · Talk to Nadia at Arkus ↗

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation · Official information checked 21 September 2026.

Official source: signal.arkusinnovationstudios.com/r/02/f07

WHO CAN APPLY

Public entities and eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofits based in the United States or its territories. Private foundations and non-functionally integrated Type III supporting organizations are excluded.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Apply through one lead, even for a partnership. Demonstrate national reach and the ability to manage a large grant across partners. A letter of intent is required before an invited full proposal.

08

STATUS: NEW · King County, Washington · CLOSES WITHIN 14 DAYS

Give the people who help families time to learn.

King County offers $2,000–$20,000 in reimbursement for staff training that strengthens relationships between caregivers and young children.

Good training needs time on the work calendar. King County's Promoting First Relationships program asks agencies to make that time real, allowing staff to learn and practice an approach that supports caregivers and children from birth to five. It is meant for people already working with families, not a future hire.

There are two routes: become a certified provider, or train colleagues after completing the provider level. Staff need at least two years of relevant direct experience, with half their current role devoted to continuing work with families. Each participant recruits a family for the practice sessions; the agency supplies time, equipment and support.

Applications close October 1. Creating the required Agiloft account can take three to five business days, so that is the immediate job. Funding reimburses eligible costs during 2027. Staff and supervisors also need to check the required January workshop and the training schedule before committing.

ON OFFER

$2,000–$20,000 reimbursement

Anticipated total reimbursement across agencies: $94,215 for January 1–December 31, 2027. Funding varies by agency and participating staff. It is not an unrestricted upfront grant.

NEXT REQUIRED ACTION

1 October 2026 · 2 p.m. (time zone: see note)

Application deadline

FINAL SUBMISSION

1 October 2026 · 2 p.m. (time zone: see note)

Application deadline

First required step in 9 days (as of 22 September)



Application and details ↗ · Official source ↗ · Talk to Nadia at Arkus ↗

Public Health – Seattle & King County, Best Starts for Kids · Official information checked 21 September 2026.

Official source: signal.arkusinnovationstudios.com/r/02/f08

WHO CAN APPLY

King County community-based agencies; the scoring criteria specify nonprofit human-service agencies. Staff must already work for the applicant, have at least two years of relevant experience with children aged birth to five and families, and spend at least 50% of their role in ongoing direct service.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Create a DCHS Agiloft account, allowing 3–5 business days. Submit the signed cover sheet, a letter of interest of no more than four pages and personnel budget. Identify each staff member's training route; Level 3 requires completed Level 2 and the required assessment. Account for family recruitment, equipment, workshop attendance and staff release time.

READ THIS DETAIL

The live page and current RFA direct applicants to Agiloft, but an older email-submission sentence remains in the RFA. Follow the dedicated Agiloft instructions and check any September 23 addendum. The page uses PST during daylight-saving time. The calendar reminder remains all-day until the intended Pacific cutoff is confirmed.

09 STATUS: STILL OPEN Eligibility and geography below CLOSES WITHIN 14 DAYS

Make the method cheaper, not just the shopping.

This sequencing challenge targets roughly $1–$10 per sample through laboratory innovation. Bulk discounts alone will not qualify.

A cheaper box of laboratory supplies is useful. This challenge is asking for a deeper change: fewer difficult steps between a patient or environmental sample and usable genetic sequencing data. The aim is a credible path toward roughly $1–$10 per sample for routine public-health work in low- and middle-income countries.



Applicants need a sequencing method that works with existing equipment and keeps the data useful. The funders favor simpler procedures, adaptable components and realistic performance in laboratories with limited infrastructure. Buying in bulk or putting more samples through the same process cannot be the main innovation. The cost target is an ambition to test, not a claim applicants must already have achieved.

Three award levels reach $300,000, $600,000 and $800,000, according to the work's maturity. September 29 at 11:30 a.m. Pacific is the application cutoff. The initial package is three proposal pages plus one budget page. Use that small space to explain the scientific change, the evidence needed and the conditions in which it will work.

ON OFFER

Up to $300k, $600k or $800k

Separate maturity-based ceilings: early feasibility and mid-stage awards up to 24 months; advanced development up to 36 months. Costs include allowable overhead. Approximately 15 awards across tiers are anticipated, not guaranteed.

NEXT REQUIRED ACTION

29 September 2026 · 11:30 a.m. PT

Application deadline

FINAL SUBMISSION

29 September 2026 · 11:30 a.m. PT

Application deadline

First required step in 7 days (as of 22 September)

Application and details ↗ Official source ↗ Talk to Nadia at Arkus ↗

Grand Challenges, co-funded by Gates Foundation and Temasek Foundation; managed by United Nations Foundation · Official information checked 21 September 2026.

Official source: signal.arkusinnovationstudios.com/r/02/f09

WHO CAN APPLY

Eligible research institutes, nonprofits, companies, international organizations, government agencies and academic institutions worldwide. Individuals and entities treated as individuals for US tax purposes are excluded. Sanctions and specified industry exclusions apply.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Submit no more than three proposal pages, including figures and references, plus one budget page. Show a laboratory testing plan, an 18-month workplan and evidence planned within the first 12 months. Accept the funders' requirements for making results and products accessible to intended beneficiaries. Do not include proprietary information.

10 STATUS: NEW Eligibility and geography below CLOSES WITHIN 14 DAYS

Make room for the audience that is missing.

Up to $5,000 can support an arts organization or a particular project in three named North Central Washington counties.

The audience is part of the artistic problem. Who cannot get to the performance, see their heritage represented or find an affordable way to take part? The Woods Family Music and Arts Grant supports broader participation, with particular attention to young people and audiences that existing programs do not reach.



Applicants may seek up to $5,000 for general operating costs or a specific project. The geographic boundary matters: the eligibility page names Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan counties and excludes the Methow Valley. Eligible charities, schools and certain other public or religious organizations can apply. Other groups need a fiscal sponsor, an eligible charity that takes responsibility for the grant.

Applications close September 30, with awards expected in November. The fund will not pay for a project already completed or equipment already acquired before the award date. Plan something the grant can still change. Recipients have one year after the award to spend the money and must report what happened.

ON OFFER

Up to $5,000

General operating or project support. Spend within one year of the award and submit the required final evaluation.

NEXT REQUIRED ACTION

30 September 2026

Application deadline

FINAL SUBMISSION

30 September 2026

Application deadline

First required step in 8 days (as of 22 September)

Application and details ↗ Official source ↗ Talk to Nadia at Arkus ↗

Community Foundation of North Central Washington · Official information checked 21 September 2026.

Official source: signal.arkusinnovationstudios.com/r/02/f10

WHO CAN APPLY

Eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofits in Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan counties, excluding the Methow Valley; government entities including schools and qualifying religious organizations. Other groups require a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

One application per organization, except sponsorship of another applicant. Schools may submit one per building plus one district-wide request. Do not seek support for work completed or equipment acquired before the award.

READ THIS DETAIL

The sample application includes a Grant County service-area option, but the eligibility page names only Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan and excludes Methow Valley. Do not treat that option as an eligibility extension; confirm any boundary case with the foundation.

11

STATUS: STILL OPEN Eligibility and geography below CLOSES WITHIN 14 DAYS

Let patients help write the question.

PCORI offers up to $300,000 to help small organizations become research partners. The grant does not pay for a research study.

A patient can answer every survey question and still have no say in what a study asks. PCORI wants small organizations to help change that relationship. This award funds the skills and partnerships needed to take part in future research comparing healthcare options, with patients helping decide what matters.

Small has a precise meaning here: an average annual operating budget no higher than $1.5 million over the past two fiscal years. Previous direct Engagement Award funding must total no more than $125,000; money received as a subcontractor does not count. Nonprofits, businesses and eligible public organizations can apply, but existing relationships with researchers and patient communities are required.

The October 1 deadline is for a letter of intent, an initial project description. Support letters belong with the later invited application. Awards cover two years and include participation in PCORI's learning network. Surveys alone will not satisfy the partnership requirement, and the money cannot fund a study or write the next grant application.

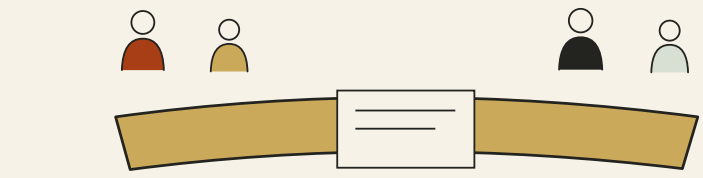
Application and details ↗ Official source ↗ Talk to Nadia at Arkus ↗

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute · Official information checked 21 September 2026.

Official source: signal.arkusinnovationstudios.com/r/02/f11

PCORI SMALL ORGANIZATIONS

The question belongs on a shared desk.



ON OFFER

Up to $300,000 total costs

Two-year projects must run June 1, 2027–May 31, 2029. The ceiling includes direct costs and overhead. Recipients must participate in the learning network and budget for its required second-year in-person meeting.

NEXT REQUIRED ACTION

1 October 2026 · 5 p.m. ET

Letter of intent deadline

FINAL SUBMISSION

11 January 2027 · 5 p.m. ET

Invited application deadline

First required step in 9 days (as of 22 September)

WHO CAN APPLY

Qualifying nonprofit, for-profit and public organizations, or groups using an IRS-recognized fiscal sponsor. Average annual operating budget must be $1.5m or less over the past two fiscal years; prior direct Engagement Awards cannot total over $125,000. Individuals cannot apply. A foreign-led application must justify US benefit and include a key US-based organization and co-project lead as a funded partner.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Demonstrate current relationships with researchers and with patients or other people connected to the topic. The project lead and administrative official must be employees or board members of the recipient. Choose only one Engagement Award track this cycle. Invited applicants must attend at least one staff meeting and supply support letters.

12

STATUS: NEW Rural Washington State CLOSES WITHIN 14 DAYS

A rural gathering can begin on a screen.

ArtsWA welcomes online arts activities that reduce isolation, when an experienced community service partner helps shape them.

A gathering does not always need everyone in the same room. ArtsWA's rural-community grant welcomes online activities that reduce loneliness, particularly among older adults, when a service provider with experience of the community helps build the project. The screen is a way in; the relationship still needs people who know their neighbors.



Projects must put arts, heritage or culture at the center and be open to the public. Eligible applicants include arts and social-impact charities, qualified sponsored groups, designated local arts agencies and Tribal governments. A social-impact charity needs a distinct project, rather than support for its regular program. Prior pilot recipients and agricultural communities receive priority.

Awards range from $3,000 to $5,000 and reimburse approved spending. That means the organization must be able to pay costs before claiming them back. Applications close October 6 at 5 p.m.; the page does not specify a time zone. The collaboration needs another organization or service provider, and a practical plan for making participation possible.

Application and details ↗ Official source ↗ Talk to Nadia at Arkus ↗

ArtsWA, Washington State Arts Commission · Official information checked 21 September 2026.

Official source: signal.arkusinnovationstudios.com/r/02/f12

ON OFFER

$3,000–$5,000 reimbursement

Payment follows spending and ArtsWA approval of expense records and invoices. Eligible project period: July 1, 2026–August 30, 2027. Funding recipients must agree to required federal compliance attestations.

NEXT REQUIRED ACTION

6 October 2026 · 5 p.m. (time zone: see note)

Application deadline

FINAL SUBMISSION

6 October 2026 · 5 p.m. (time zone: see note)

Application deadline

First required step in 14 days (as of 22 September)

WHO CAN APPLY

Qualifying arts, heritage, culture or social-impact 501(c)(3) nonprofits; groups with a qualifying fiscal sponsor; eligible faith-based organizations for secular public projects; designated local arts agencies; Tribal governments. Individuals, businesses and schools cannot apply.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Work in rural Washington with at least one other organization or service provider and public access. Online activities must involve a provider experienced with the community. Supply required tax-status evidence, budgets and state/federal registration numbers; sponsored groups must also be registered Washington nonprofits or charities.

READ THIS DETAIL

The current program page gives a 5 p.m. deadline without a time zone. All-day calendar reminder; confirm the actual cutoff with ArtsWA.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Put the first step in the calendar.

Required applicant steps first. Confirm the issuer's latest notice before acting.

24 SEPT

A contact list cannot do this job.

Next: Letter of intent deadline · 24 September 2026 · 3 p.m. ET

Final: 22 January 2027 · 3 p.m. ET

Required first submission. Only invited applicants may submit a full proposal.

Story 07 · page 06

29 SEPT

Make the method cheaper, not just the shopping.

Next: Application deadline · 29 September 2026 · 11:30 a.m. PT

Submit the three-page proposal and one-page budget through the official portal.

Story 09 · page 07

30 SEPT

The referral needs somewhere to go.

Next: Latest advised SAM registration start · 30 September 2026

Final: 9 November 2026 · 8:59 p.m. ET

The notice advised starting SAM registration by 21 September (passed); its latest stated date is 30 September. This is an early registration instruction, not the proposal deadline and does not mean registration must be complete on this date.

Story 03 · page 04

30 SEPT

Coming home is a process.

Next: Latest advised SAM registration start · 30 September 2026

Final: 6 November 2026 · 8:59 p.m. ET

The notice advised starting SAM registration by 21 September (passed); its latest stated date is 30 September. This is an early registration instruction, not the proposal deadline and does not mean registration must be complete on this date.

Story 04 · page 04

30 SEPT

Make room for the audience that is missing.

Next: Application deadline · 30 September 2026

Annual September 30 deadline confirmed against the current application materials. No cutoff time is published.

Story 10 · page 07

01 OCT

Give the people who help families time to learn.

Next: Application deadline · 1 October 2026 · 2 p.m. (time zone: see note)

Issuer labels the cutoff PST during daylight-saving time. Confirm the intended Pacific cutoff; apply through the dedicated Agiloft route. Account creation takes 3–5 business days.

Story 08 · page 06

01 OCT

Let patients help write the question.

Next: Letter of intent deadline · 1 October 2026 · 5 p.m. ET

Final: 11 January 2027 · 5 p.m. ET

Required initial submission in PCORI Connect. Support letters are submitted with the later invited application, not this first stage.

Story 11 · page 08

06 OCT

A rural gathering can begin on a screen.

Next: Application deadline · 6 October 2026 · 5 p.m. (time zone: see note)

The issuer specifies 5 p.m. without a time zone. All-day reminder; confirm the cutoff.

Story 12 · page 08

15 OCT

Keep the work going all year.

Next: Latest advised SAM registration start · 15 October 2026

Final: 5 November 2026 · 8:59 p.m. ET

The notice says to begin SAM registration or renewal by September 29, and no later than this date. This is an early registration instruction, not the proposal deadline and does not mean registration must be complete on this date.

Story 02 · page 03

16 OCT

Share the work before sharing the grant.

Next: Application deadline · 16 October 2026 · 5 p.m. (time zone: see note)

Required full application. The issuer says 5 p.m. PST during daylight-saving time. All-day reminder; confirm the intended Pacific cutoff.

Story 01 · page 03

21 OCT

Before the trial, test the plan.

Next: Application deadline · 21 October 2026 · 5 p.m. (time zone: see note)

The deadline follows the applicant organization's local time. This publication cannot assign one universal time zone, so the reminder is all-day. Use NIH ASSIST or another submission route listed in the call.

Story 05 · page 05

04 NOV

The discovery may already be in the data.

Next: Full proposal deadline · 4 November 2026 · 5 p.m. (time zone: see note)

The deadline follows the submitting organization's local time. All-day reminder; use the organization's own time zone for the actual cutoff.

Story 06 · page 05

THIS WEEK'S WORD LADDER

From cost to care, in three edits.

Change exactly one letter at each step. Keep the other letters in place. Two missing words connect the top row to the bottom row. The clues name both answers.

Start here	C O S T
A group of actors	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
An argument to make	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
Finish here	C A R E

MAKE THE NEXT STEP CONCRETE

A ten-minute application check.

1. The first gate

Record the earliest required notice, registration instruction or submission. If it has passed, ask the issuer whether proceeding is possible.

Opportunity / first action / owner

2. The evidence

List the eligibility rule and one document that proves it. Check the official call for amendments and conflicting instructions.

Rule / evidence / question to resolve

3. The working date

Choose an internal review date before the official deadline. Give each partner a named task and confirm the submission route.

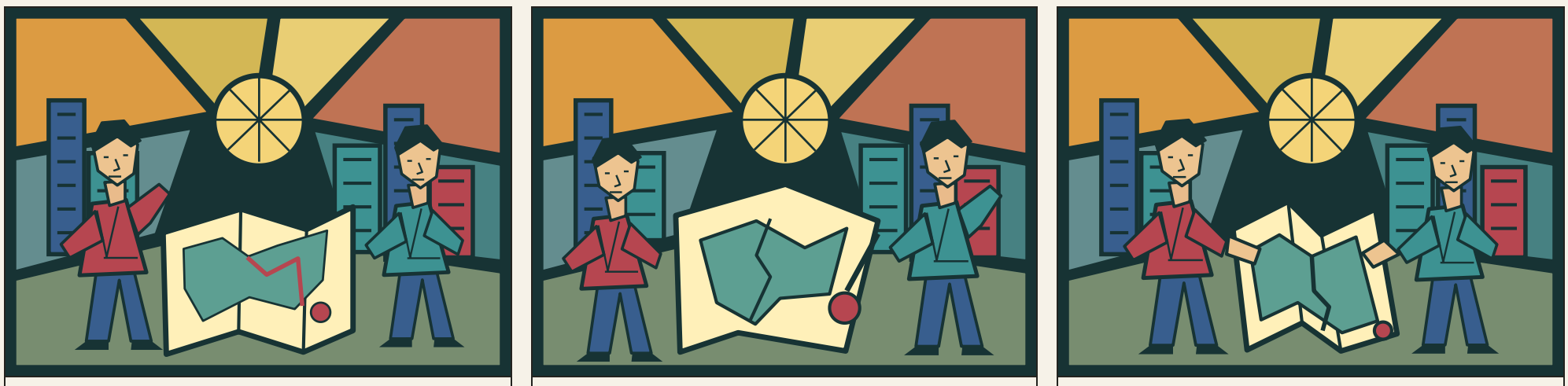
Review date / reviewer / submission owner

A SIDEWAYS LOOK

The small print gets a scene.

A map that will not budge, an unfinished form, and a rather early celebration.

The folding map



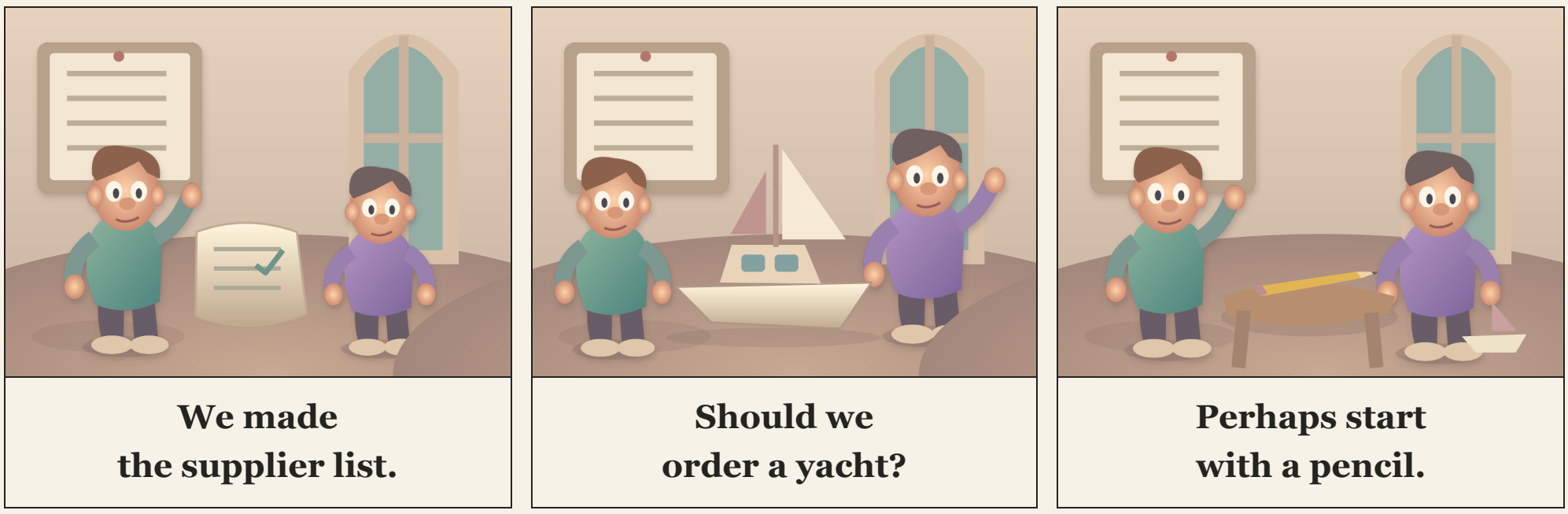
Woods Family Music and Arts applicants must be in Chelan, Douglas or Okanogan counties, excluding the Methow Valley. The applicant’s location matters. **Read the official source ↗**

Saved suspense



WSMA’s application instructions allow Save Draft and say submitted applications cannot be edited. Review the application before the final submission step. **Read the official source ↗**

The first purchase



Contracts edition · Energy Trust’s research pool qualifies firms for future assignments. Acceptance does not guarantee work or funding. **Read the official source ↗**

AN EDITORIAL OBSERVATION

Make the hidden work easier to see.

> The difficult part of a collaboration often happens between organizations.

The difficult part of a collaboration often happens between organizations. Someone translates a request, catches a missing detail or makes sure two reasonable plans do not collide. An application gets stronger when that work has a name, an owner and a place in the budget. This is an editorial observation about planning, not an additional funder requirement.

A useful partnership makes this work visible before the application is submitted. Who can approve a change? Who keeps the records? Who speaks to a participant when two services hand responsibility to each other? These are planning questions, not reasons to make a proposal longer. A short, shared answer can reveal a gap that an impressive list of partners conceals. The budget then has something concrete to support.

THE PROCESS AT A GLANCE

Give good partners a working plan.

An editorial way to read a collaborative proposal. The official WSMA rules remain in the article.

Name the shared job: Explain what the organizations will do together and why it needs more than one team.

Identify the people served: Use the funder's actual geography and eligibility rules to describe who the project will reach.

Show who owns the next step: Connect responsibilities, evidence and budget so the reader can follow the work.

MEET THE STUDIO

Meet Arkus Innovation Studios

A good decision has something solid underneath it.



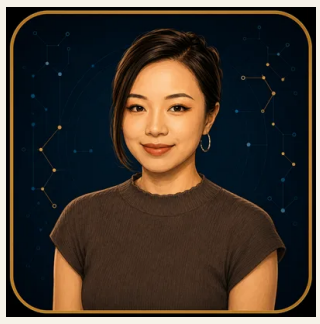
Chandler Lewis
Founder · Managing Director



Walter Benadof
Partner · Global Markets and Investments



Nadia Lerouge
Deputy Managing Director



Cloud (Yiyun) Qiu
Partner · Design and Innovation Strategy



Aarav Ghai
Research Analyst

Arkus Innovation Studios is a commercial advisory and delivery studio for founders, investors and organizations deciding what to build, improve or pursue. We examine the evidence behind an idea and turn it into a practical recommendation. A promising story deserves a fair test. So does the uncomfortable question that could change the plan.

Our Startup Diagnostic examines a single venture or product. The Portfolio Diagnostic compares a group of initiatives. AI workflow work begins with the way a team actually operates: where information arrives, what people decide and which task might improve with a carefully scoped use of technology. The method starts with the work, rather than a favorite tool.

Research, design and operating experience belong in the same conversation. A market finding matters when it changes a choice. A prototype matters when someone can use it to learn. We connect those pieces so leaders can see the case for moving forward, the conditions that still need testing and the questions that remain open.

To explore working together, send Nadia the public opportunity link, a short description of your organization and the part you want to lead. We can discuss a defined research, strategy, design or AI contribution, with responsibilities agreed around the actual scope. For funded projects and contracts, the applicant and every delivery partner must meet the issuer's rules. Start with the question you need answered; the conversation can establish whether Arkus is the right fit.

More about Arkus ↗ **Start a conversation with Nadia ↗** **nadia@arkusinnovationstudios.com**

Word ladder solution: COST → CAST → CASE → CARE. Each step changes one letter.